



Sustainability Task Force Ad-hoc Committee

A sub-committee of the Sustainability Task Force
Mayor Ann Schwab, Chair

Meeting of December 15, 2008 – 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Chico Municipal Center, 411 Main Street, Conference Room 1

AGENDA

1. **CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS REGARDING ESTABLISHING SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AND INDICATORS FOR THE CITY'S 2030 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE.**

At its 12/1/08 meeting, the Task Force reviewed examples of sustainability indicators from the City of Santa Monica and discussed the Task Force's role in developing goals and indicators for the City's 2030 General Plan Update. The Task Force forwarded this discussion to the Ad-Hoc Committee. For the next four months, the Ad-Hoc Committee will meet on the Task Force's second meeting of the month (third Monday), and will report back to the full Task Force at its regularly scheduled meetings held on the first Monday of the month. A draft matrix of potential categories of indicators for each of the City of Chico's General Plan Elements, and more examples of sustainability indicators from other jurisdictions are being provided to the Task Force with this agenda.

2. **Business from the Floor** – Members of the public may address the Committee at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda, with comments being limited to three minutes. The Committee cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

ATTACHMENTS:

2030 General Plan Guiding Principles
Draft City of Chico General Plan Matrix
Examples of Sustainability Indicators from:
District of Saanich, British Columbia
City of Minneapolis
City of San Mateo
Seattle, WA

Distribution available in the office of the City Clerk:

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Members:

Jason Bougie
Amelia Gulling
Tami Ritter
Julian Zener

Tom DiGiovanni
Jon Luvaas
Ann Schwab, Chair

Chris Giampaoli
Dr. Scott G. McNall
Jim Stevens

Ken Grossman
Jim Pushnik
Scott Wolf

INTRODUCTION

What is a guiding principle?

Guiding principles provide the framework and benchmarks to direct Chico's future consistent with community values and desires. They provide broad statements of purpose, intent and/or direction to achieve the community vision. The principles are used to guide the General Plan update, mapping and land use alternatives process. Additionally, the guiding principles establish a set of guidelines and benchmarks for the writing and implementation of General Plan goals, policies and actions.

How are guiding principles incorporated in the current 1994 General Plan?

The 1994 General Plan includes 9 overall themes, 14 guiding principles (in the Community Design and Land Use Elements), and 134 key guiding policies. Collectively, these provisions identify both broad and specific statements of purpose, intent and direction for the General Plan. All of the nine elements of the existing General Plan include key guiding principles pertinent to the element topic that provide the basis for the implementing policies or specific actions to achieve the community vision. The Summary Chapter of the General Plan lists all 134 key guiding policies.

What is the approach for these 2030 General Plan guiding principles?

The approach for the guiding principles in the 2030 General Plan Update is to build on past planning efforts, to ensure that key issues and priorities of Chicoans are addressed, and to focus on a few broad guiding principles for the Introduction Chapter of the General Plan. The guiding principles will set the overall tone/focus for the General Plan and each of the subsequent elements of the General Plan will further guide and plan for implementation of these guiding principles.

Introduction Chapter

- ❖ **Overall Vision for Chico in 2030**
- ❖ **General Plan Strategy of Sustainability**
- ❖ **Guiding Principles - Establishes objectives, framework, and/or benchmarks to guide/direct subsequent policies and actions consistent with the vision.**

Individual General Plan Elements (11 total)

- Vision Statement - Paints a picture of what Chico wants to be in 25 years relative to the element.
- Context - Element purpose, related plan, issues and considerations.
- Goals, Policies, and Actions - Goals are statements of community desires that will further refine and detail guiding principles. The policies serve as guides to the decision makers in reviewing development proposals and making other decisions that affect the future growth and development of the City. Actions are the implementation steps necessary to ensure the goals and policies are carried out.

CHICO 2030 VISION

Chico will be a livable, energetic, healthy, and sustainable community in the year 2030. It will offer a high quality of life with a strong sense of community and place. Chico will maintain its small town character with opportunities for future generations to thrive. Government will be transparent and the politics open and engaging. The City will be characterized by a vibrant Downtown, a healthy economy, compact urban form, identifiable neighborhoods and housing choices, organic and sustainable farming practices, and a focus on alternative transportation and healthy lifestyles. Historic places and buildings will be prominent in the City's future. Chico will be celebrated for its diversity, culture, and access to the outdoors, recreational opportunities, and parks. It will be known as a leader in innovative technology and educational capital. The City will maintain its national recognition as a "Best Place in America" (Forbes Magazine), a "Best Place to Live" (Money.com), a "Healthy City" (Organic Style), a top-ranked bicycle-friendly city, and a community with one of the largest parks in the nation (Bidwell Park). Chico will also be renowned throughout California and the nation as a "Best Place to Visit" with diverse cultural activities and entertainment venues, as well as natural and manmade amenities and attractions. Above all, Chico will be "a place we'll all be proud to call home."

GENERAL PLAN STRATEGY OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Guiding Strategy for the City of Chico's General Plan is to progress towards a Sustainable Chico. Chico is committed to minimizing the impact of human activity on the environment, while supporting economic progress and social equity. Chico will integrate sustainability principles into all decision-making, promoting a whole-systems approach. Our goal is to enhance each community system that supports each community need and ensure that they interact in a mutually reinforcing manner. Sustainability can be achieved when each system is working in an optimal state.

Definition: Sustainability in Chico means enhancing our natural resources, economic interests, and quality of life so that present and future generations can reach their greatest potential, promoting a culture of stewardship that distinguishes Chico as a sustainability leader.

The Three Systems of Sustainability: The Three-Legged Stool

Sustainability promotes well-balanced communities by linking together three critical systems: environment, economy and society. These dimensions are inter-related and equally important for achieving a sustainable community. They can be visualized as a "three legged stool" that support and sustain healthy communities. If one leg of the stool is cut off the chair becomes unstable; similarly, if one dimension of sustainability is not considered the community becomes unstable. This model of sustainability addresses the most important vision concepts in Chico.

To achieve Sustainable Chico, the following systems must work together:

Environment

A healthy environment is critical to achieving long term economic sustainability and community strength. The priority is to value, restore and protect natural resources and ecosystem services and create quality environments.

Economy

A sustainable economy requires a diversified employment base and trained local workforce. The priority is to create a resilient and thriving local economy, accessible to local residents and responsive to local needs.

Society

A strong community improves the quality of the lives of Chico's residents. The priority is to respect and value each community member, and provide well-functioning social systems to promote access to opportunity and allow each resident to reach their greatest potential.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Draft Guiding Principles for the Chico 2030 General Plan are listed herein. While these principles consider the guiding principles from the 1994 General Plan, the main focus is to address the key issues, priorities, and vision as communicated by Chico residents and stakeholders to date, including but not limited to input from the statistically valid phone survey, the visioning workshops, stakeholder meetings, key issues workshops, GPAC meetings, and Downtown Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

1. **Planned and Balanced Growth and Conservation.** The General Plan establishes a citywide land use plan with a healthy balance and mix of land uses that is sustainable for the future of Chico and that maintains or enhances quality of life for Chico residents. The City will balance growth and conservation by reinforcing the City's compact urban form, establishing urban growth limits, and managing where and how growth and conservation will occur. Orderly development contiguous to existing developed areas that can be efficiently served by the extension of infrastructure and municipal services in a fiscally responsible manner is a priority for Chico.
2. **Healthy Environment with a Reduced Ecological Footprint.** Cities generally consume far more resources than are produced locally, and produce more wastes than can be assimilated into the local environment. Chico will actively strive to reduce our ecological footprint by using fewer natural resources, relying on locally produced goods and services, actively promoting the use of renewable versus non-renewable resources, and enhancing environmentally friendly strategies to locally assimilate wastes. The City strives to protect our air quality, climate, and human health by reducing all harmful emissions, including greenhouse gases. Chico will lead the way

to a healthy environment by providing local government support, partnerships, and innovation in sustainable design principles.

3. **Strong Local Economy with Diversified Employment Base and Reliance on Local Business.** The General Plan will actively promote an appropriate mix of local jobs suited for Chico's residents and local needs, such that future generations will remain in Chico because the City supports their desired lifestyle or career. Encouraging residents to support the local economy by buying locally produced goods and services will create a more robust local economy.
4. **Resource Protection and Enhancement.** The General Plan will conserve, enhance and protect viable agricultural resources, natural resources, and unique natural environments. This Plan outlines strategies for acquisition and preservation of sensitive habitats and creekside greenways and stipulates criteria for development in resource-sensitive areas. The City's open space resources and creeks are the framework for a vast and connected open space network. Historic and cultural resources will be protected and enhanced to serve as significant visible reminders of the City's social and architectural history.
5. **Enhance Chico's Character and Identity.** The General Plan will reinforce the unique identity and character of Chico as a thriving valley town in a natural landscape setting. Promote Chico as the civic, cultural, and economic hub of the region and the North Valley at the same time maintaining the City's small town charm. The General Plan emphasizes the role of Downtown as the heart of the community.
6. **Livable Neighborhoods as Community Foundation.** The General Plan will create and reinforce a pattern well designed and walkable neighborhood environments, from the traditional downtown core to integrated new communities, with places to gather, nearby services for daily shopping needs, and multi-modal access to recreation, jobs, and other community and regional services.
7. **Development Patterns that Offer Alternatives to Automobile Use.** Chico's level topography and mature landscape offer a pleasant environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. The General Plan integrates and locates land uses to reduce distances between uses with a renewed emphasis on traditional street patterns providing easy access for all residents, including bicyclists and pedestrians. The Plan emphasizes development of a balanced, integrated, multi-modal circulation system (streets, trails, sidewalks, bikeways) that is efficient and safe, connecting neighborhoods to jobs, shopping, schools, services, local attractions, and active and passive open space.
8. **Performance Based Service Standards and Resource Allocation for Sustainability.** Sustainability indicators provide guidance in meeting our goal for a Sustainable Chico. The development of sustainability indicators allow us to analyze our progress towards achieving a sustainable community. These indicators can guide future

decisions and program development, allowing for continual improvement and reallocation of resources to achieve community goals.

9. **Social Services and Systems for All Chico Residents.** The General Plan will create a community that fosters a strong sense of identity, public safety and the personal well-being of all of Chico's residents. The City will promote community engagement, lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to all community resources. Chico will provide a varied and diverse housing supply to support the needs of Chico's current and future residents.



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT GUIDELINES For Rezoning & Development Permit Applications



The mission of the District of Saanich is to enhance the quality of life for citizens, visitors and future generations in our municipality and the region. We strive to live in harmony with each other and our environment and further our citizens' economic, physical and social well being.

Saanich Strategic Plan 2006-2010

The Sustainability Statement provides an assessment of a project's contribution to sustainability based on environmental, social and economic indicators and will be used to inform decisions in the development approval process.

The Statement is required for:

- Multi-family, commercial and industrial rezoning and development permit applications.
- Rezoning applications for the creation of 5 additional lots.

To assist in the preparation of the Sustainability Statement, a checklist of environmental, social and economic indicators and sample Sustainability Statements are provided. The checklist is not intended to be prescriptive and is not comprehensive. Not all indicators will be relevant to your project. Sustainability indicators not included in the checklist will be considered and are encouraged.

Preparation of the Sustainability Statement

1. Review the checklist of Sustainability Indicators.
2. Review the sample Sustainability Statements.
3. Prepare a Sustainability Statement for your project.
4. Submit the Sustainability Statement as part of your rezoning or development permit application.

Evaluation Process

Your Sustainability Statement will be reviewed by staff and included in the information package provided to Council.

For additional information please contact:

The District of Saanich • Planning Department • 3rd Floor • Municipal Hall
770 Vernon Avenue • Victoria BC • V8X 2W7

website: www.saanich.ca/business/development/plan/generalsub.html

Tel: 250.475.5471 or 250.475.5473

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Rezoning and Development Permit Applications

1. Environmental Indicators

Describe the environmentally-sustainable features of your project including ecological protection and restoration and green design.

a) Ecological Protection and Restoration

- Conserves ecologically sensitive areas including streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands and their riparian areas, the marine shoreline, and red and blue listed plants, wildlife and plant communities
- Provides for restoration of ecologically sensitive areas
- Conserves, enhances or creates urban forest
- Plants trees to create or enhance urban forest
- Conserves or creates corridors for wildlife movement between the natural areas on the site and those on adjacent properties

b) Green Design & Construction

- Minimizes impervious surfaces and incorporates features that will encourage ground water recharge such as vegetated swales and pervious paving materials
- Improves the environmental performance of the soft landscaping (e.g. naturoscaping, planting of trees and soil enhancement)
- Provides building support systems and natural systems that are visible to the users and community as design features (e.g. living walls, solar systems, storm water treatment, water re-use, green roofs, energy and water use monitoring and billing)
- Reduces energy and water use and the generation of greenhouse gasses, pollution and waste during the lifetime of the building (e.g. solar orientation, on-site composting, recycling, water conservation)
- Reduces waste generation & resource use during construction (e.g. uses recycled, reclaimed and low embodied energy materials)
- Diverts construction, demolition and land clearing debris from landfill disposal
- Generates “green” power

2. Social Indicators

Outline the features of your project that enhance its social sustainability, including public consultation, housing affordability, heritage preservation, public spaces and streetscapes, and promotion of transportation alternatives.

a) Community Consultation

- Engages neighbours, the Community Association and other appropriate stakeholders in a dialogue about the project proposal, documents any concerns and where appropriate responds through positive changes to the proposal

b) Location and Density

- Supports the objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy
- Supports the objectives of the Saanich General Plan, Local Area Plan, and relevant Action Plans
- Minimizes footprint and per unit land consumption
- Provides density close to amenities

c) Community Character and Liveability

- Provides high quality architectural design
- Preserves heritage, visual amenities and view corridors
- Provides public art and community spaces for social interaction
- Encourages crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)
- Provides a mix of land uses
- Adds new uses to address neighbourhood needs
- Allows live/work opportunities
- Provides a mix of housing types, sizes, costs and tenure
- Contributes to the supply of affordable and special-needs housing
- Includes enhanced Adaptable Housing features
- Promotes a pedestrian-friendly streetscape (separate/widened sidewalks, street furniture, lighting, landscaping, connectivity to buildings)
- Accessible to parks, recreation facilities and green/open spaces
- Accessible to a variety of institutional, commercial and community services
- Provides community amenities and programs (daycare, seniors facility, community gardens)
- Contributes quality landscaping and boulevard trees

d) Transportation

- Enhances cycling infrastructure, multi-use trails and pedestrian facilities
- Provides accessible connections to public transit
- Helps make transit more viable in the area
- Locates close to retail, school, recreation, business, employment and service centres
- Mitigates traffic impacts and enhance street safety with traffic calming techniques
- Provides an interconnected road system with short block lengths

3. Economic Indicators

Describe the features of your project that promote economic sustainability including support to local businesses, employment creation, infrastructure efficiency, and energy/water savings.

a) Employment

- Provides permanent employment opportunities by sector, type and income level
- Results in new economic development opportunities by sector, type and income level
- Increases opportunities for training and education
- Uses local contractors and workers

b) Diversification and Enhancement

- Results in a net increase to the property tax base
- Promotes diversification of the local economy
- Creates spin-off opportunities for primary and service sector
- Preserves agricultural capability in rural areas
- Promotes value-adding of local resources
- Supports local businesses and producers
- Increases demand for materials extracted/produced locally

c) Efficient Infrastructure and Operational Cost Savings

- Uses existing municipal infrastructure and services (e.g. roads, water, sewer, drains, Police and Fire) without requiring expansion
- Provides long-term operational cost savings for energy and water, and building maintenance

Other Resource Materials

- Saanich General Plan
- Local Area Plan and any Action Plans or special studies
- Saanich Strategic Plan
- Adaptable Housing requirements and guidelines
- Canada Green Building Council website • www.cagbc.org
- SmartGrowthBC website • www.smartgrowth.bc.ca

For additional information please contact:

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Minneapolis Sustainability Indicators and Numerical Targets*

Indicator	Target																																												
Affordable Housing	<table border="1" data-bbox="583 228 1633 513"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4" data-bbox="583 228 1633 253">Target for Increased # of Units 2005-2009</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="583 253 919 277"></th> <th data-bbox="919 253 1094 277">0-30% MFI*</th> <th data-bbox="1094 253 1398 277">31-50% MFI</th> <th data-bbox="1398 253 1633 277">51-80% MFI</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="583 277 919 302">Affordable Rental</td> <td data-bbox="919 277 1094 302"></td> <td data-bbox="1094 277 1398 302"></td> <td data-bbox="1398 277 1633 302"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="583 302 919 326">-Rehabilitated units</td> <td data-bbox="919 302 1094 326">740</td> <td data-bbox="1094 302 1398 326">600</td> <td data-bbox="1398 302 1633 326">350</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="583 326 919 350">-New/positive conversion</td> <td data-bbox="919 326 1094 350">520</td> <td data-bbox="1094 326 1398 350">440</td> <td data-bbox="1398 326 1633 350">250</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="583 350 919 375">Affordable Ownership</td> <td data-bbox="919 350 1094 375"></td> <td data-bbox="1094 350 1398 375"></td> <td data-bbox="1398 350 1633 375"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="583 375 919 399">-Rehabilitated units</td> <td data-bbox="919 375 1094 399">0</td> <td data-bbox="1094 375 1398 399">30</td> <td data-bbox="1398 375 1633 399">60</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="583 399 919 423">-New/positive conversion</td> <td data-bbox="919 399 1094 423">0</td> <td data-bbox="1094 399 1398 423">110</td> <td data-bbox="1398 399 1633 423">150</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="583 423 919 448">Special Needs Housing</td> <td data-bbox="919 423 1094 448"></td> <td data-bbox="1094 423 1398 448"></td> <td data-bbox="1398 423 1633 448"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="583 448 919 472">-Rehabilitated units</td> <td data-bbox="919 448 1094 472"></td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1094 448 1633 472">180 units at 0-80% of MFI</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="583 472 919 496">-New/positive conversion</td> <td data-bbox="919 472 1094 496"></td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1094 472 1633 496">210 units at 0-80% of MFI</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="583 513 867 537">*MFI = Median Family Income</p>	Target for Increased # of Units 2005-2009					0-30% MFI*	31-50% MFI	51-80% MFI	Affordable Rental				-Rehabilitated units	740	600	350	-New/positive conversion	520	440	250	Affordable Ownership				-Rehabilitated units	0	30	60	-New/positive conversion	0	110	150	Special Needs Housing				-Rehabilitated units		180 units at 0-80% of MFI		-New/positive conversion		210 units at 0-80% of MFI	
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Air Quality	1. Fewer than 35 moderately unhealthy days per year in Minneapolis area by 2015 with further reductions thereafter. 2. Reduce levels of all monitored air toxics to levels lower than applicable health benchmarks by 2015.																																												
Airport Noise	Decrease average annual Decibel Noise Levels (DNL) by at least 3dB from 2004 levels at all monitors in Minneapolis.																																												
Asthma	Reduce hospitalizations for asthma among various age groups by 2010: ** < 5 years 51 per 10,000 population 5-64 years 14 per 10,000 population 65+years 24 per 10,000 population																																												
Bicycle Lanes and Paths	Add 44 miles of bike trails & bike lanes by 2015 (14 miles of on- street bike lanes and 30 miles of off-street bike trails.																																												
Block Clubs	Increase to 875 block clubs. **																																												
Brownfield Sites	Remediate 100 sites by 2014.																																												
Climate Change	1. Reduce Municipal operations emissions by 12% by 2012 and by 20% by 2020. 2. Reduce City wide emissions by 12% by 2012 and by 20% by 2020.																																												
Combined Sewer Overflow	By 2014, eliminate combined sewer overflows.																																												
Downtown Transportation Mode Split	Increase the use of alternative transportation modes (bus, LRT, bike, walk, or car/van pool) to 67% by 2013.																																												
High School Graduation Rate	Increase the graduation rate to 80% by 2008 for the 7 large Minneapolis public high schools. **																																												
Healthy Weight	Increase the proportion of adults at a healthy weight to 52% by 2010.																																												

Indicator	Target
HIV and Gonorrhea	1. Decrease the incidence rate of new gonorrhea cases to 161 per 100,000 people. ** 2. Decrease the rate of new HIV cases to 20.77 cases per 100,000 people by 2010. **
Homeless	End homelessness by 2016.
Homicides	No more than 11 homicides per 100,000 residents regardless of population change. **
Healthy Infants	1. Reduce infant death rates overall and within each race/ethnic groups to 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2010. ** 2. Reduce the proportion of low birth weights to 5 % by 2010. **
Lead Testing	1. Increase the percentage of one and two year old children receiving blood lead testing to 100% by 2010. ** 2. Increase the inspection rate of homes with elevated blood level in children (10 ug/dl blood) to 100% by 2010. **
Permeable Surfaces	1. If and when it becomes feasible to measure the city's actual stormwater outflow, either across the city or within a pilot area, baseline data will be collected and targets will be set for reduced outflow. 2. By 2015, increase the number of Large Area Stormwater Amenities to 50. These are ponds, wetlands and rain gardens that treat large areas/many sources ("regional" facilities, generally public). 3. By 2015, increase the number of Small Area Stormwater Amenities to 500. These are ponds, wetlands and rain gardens that treat small areas/single sources (generally private). 4. By 2015, increase the number of Large Area Underground Stormwater Treatment Chambers to 165. Also known as grit chambers, these devices treat large areas/many sources, generally public. 5. By 2015, increase the number of Small Area Underground Stormwater Treatment Chambers to 200. Also know as grit chambers, these devices treat small areas/single sources, generally private. 6. By 2015, increase the number of Green Roofs in the city to 150.
Renewable Energy Use	1. By 2008, increase renewable electrical to 10% above renewable energy supply by Xcel to municipal buildings & at that time set a longer term target. 2. By 2015, increase renewable energy usage to 10% above state/federal mandates citywide.
Students in the Arts	95% of Minneapolis Public High School students enrolled in one or more art courses by 2014 (1 year from grades 9-12).
Teen Pregnancy Rate	46 pregnancies per 1,000 population among women 15-17 years old by 2010. **
Tree Canopy	1. No net loss of tree canopy cover (26.4%) thru 2015. 2. Plant at least 2,500 trees on public land every year thru 2015.
Water Quality of Lakes, Streams and the Mississippi River	Consistently maintain low Trophic State Index (TSI) levels by 2014: (Other water bodies pending further studies) Brownie 55 TSI Calhoun 47 TSI Cedar 47 TSI Harriet 47 TSI Lake of the Isles 57 TSI
Workers Earning a Livable Wage	To be developed. CPED is evaluating US Census data.

*As amended in October 2007. In most cases a 2004 baseline was established.

** Breakout information by race and geography if available.

Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County

Eleventh Annual Report Card
Executive Summary
April 2007

Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC) is dedicated to the long-term health of our county's environment, social equity, and economy and fosters sustainability through education. Sustainability means that we meet today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The eleventh annual *Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County* analyzes 32 indicators of sustainability and highlights actions San Mateo County and our cities are taking to move toward a more sustainable future.

An indicator is a statistic or trend that allows us to evaluate whether we are moving toward sustainability. We have chosen each indicator for its importance to the county's environment, society, and economy. The exclusion of any indicators that were analyzed in previous editions does not reflect our belief that those indicators are no longer important, but rather, the unavailability of new data to add to our previous findings.

In addition to the 32 indicators, we have identified three key issues that threaten the sustainability of the county:

- **Climate Change:** Increased temperatures may negatively impact the state's water used for drinking, flood control, hydroelectric power, agriculture, and recreation. Climate change may also increase the risk of extreme weather events and alter local habitats. Climate change is the greatest challenge today to the fundamental principle of sustainability: not compromising future generations' quality of life or ability to meet their needs.
- **Housing:** Increasingly high housing costs cause residents to live in overcrowded conditions or spend an increasingly large percentage of their incomes on housing at the expense of other needs. In order to secure affordable housing, some may choose to live far from their place of work and have long commutes, which leads to high gasoline consumption, increased air pollution, and more time away from their families.
- **Water:** San Mateo County currently is fortunate to have high-quality drinking water and sufficient water supplies for its needs, but future population growth and potential impacts from climate change threaten sustainable supplies.

No one indicator can fully capture these three issues; each issue impacts several indicators.

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Our research shows we are moving toward sustainability in a number of areas and away from sustainability in others. The findings for many indicators were mixed; some aspects of the indicator were moving in a positive direction while other negative trends persisted. Following are brief descriptions of our findings.

Positive Trends

- **Air Quality:** In 2006, the county continued to enjoy clean air; particle pollution is still a concern.
- **Carbon Emissions:** In 2005, carbon emissions were down 10 percent from 2001; transportation accounts for more than half of all carbon emissions.
- **Contaminated Sites:** In 2006, the number of known leaking underground storage tanks was down 37 percent from 1997.
- **Drinking Water Quality:** In 2005, drinking water continued to meet state and federal quality standards.
- **Homelessness:** In 2005, homelessness was down slightly.
- **Jobs:** In 2005, the county halted a four-year trend of job losses, adding 200 jobs.
- **Public Library Use:** In 2004-05, expenditures per capita were up 10 percent from 2003-04 and 71 percent from 1994-95.
- **Unemployment:** In 2006, unemployment rate was down for third consecutive year.
- **Water Use:** In 2004-05, water use was down eight percent to lowest level since 1997-98.

Negative Trends

- **Agriculture:** In 2005, total production value of agriculture was down 22 percent from 1992.
- **Child Care:** In 2006, supply of licensed child care spaces was down 11 percent; affordable infant care is the highest need.
- **Children's Health:** In 2004, one quarter of fifth, seventh and ninth graders were overweight.
- **Community Health:** In 2004, over 85 percent of adults exhibited at least one behavioral risk factor (e.g. no regular physical activity, smoking) related to heart disease.
- **Crime:** In 2005, violent crime rate was up 13 percent from 2004 and 30 percent from 1999.
- **Ecological Footprint:** Average resident's use of natural resources exceeds nature's ability to replenish them.
- **Energy Use:** In 2005, energy use from electricity and natural gas was up 16 percent from 1995, however the overall capacity of solar installations grew in 2006.
- **Gasoline Use and Vehicle Fuel Efficiency:** In 2005, total gasoline consumption increased despite high gasoline prices.

Negative Trends, *continued*

- **Housing Affordability:** The cost of the median-priced home and condominium has more than doubled in the last decade.
- **Pesticide Use:** In 2005, use of the most toxic pesticides (excluding residential use) was up 22 percent.
- **Poverty and Income Distribution:** In 2006, more than one-third of households continued to earn less than the self-sufficiency level.

Mixed Findings

- **Bay and Ocean Water Quality:** San Francisco Bay is classified as an impaired body of water under the Clean Water Act; most beaches have good water quality.
- **Child Abuse:** In 2005, child abuse referrals were down for third straight year, but remain high among African American children.
- **Education:** In 2006, Academic Performance Index scores continued to rise; it is unclear whether all children have an equal opportunity to excel.
- **Genuine Progress Indicator:** County's actual economic well-being 44 percent below that reported by conventional measure.
- **Green Building:** In 2006, more local governments were encouraging green building strategies, but only the county has a formal green building policy.
- **Health Care:** In 2005, the percentage of residents with health insurance was up from 2003; health care costs grew by 10 percent in 2006.
- **Land Use and Habitat Protection:** Land use has been fairly stable since 1990, but could be disrupted by expected population growth.
- **Parks and Open Space:** There are over 110,000 acres of parkland and open space; it is unclear if recreational opportunities and access are equal across communities.
- **Population:** Population is up nearly six percent over the last 10 years.
- **Transportation:** In 2005, daily vehicle hours of delay were down 30 percent from 2001; driving alone was the mode of choice for 70 percent of commuters.
- **Solid Waste:** In 2005, solid waste disposal was up two percent from 2004, but was still down 16 percent since 2000.
- **Voter Participation:** In 2006, voter turnout was up from 2005 and last midterm election, but still less than half of eligible voters voted.

CITY AND COUNTY ACTIONS AND POLICIES

Local governments play an integral role in building a sustainable future. SSMC asked San Mateo County, the 20 cities in the county, and the San Mateo County Community College District to describe their actions and policies related to carbon emissions (which are a contributor to climate change), housing, and water. Following is a sampling of what is happening in the county.

Climate Change

- High-mileage, low-emission vehicles such as hybrids have been purchased for government operations in Redwood City, Burlingame, San Carlos, Foster City, Menlo Park, the City of San Mateo, and South San Francisco.
- Renewable energy technologies have been installed in public facilities, such as solar panels in San Carlos, cogeneration systems at the Community College District and the Millbrae sewage plant, and solar heating in Brisbane and Menlo Park.
- Investments in energy efficiency have been made, such as the replacement of inefficient incandescent lighting with fluorescent lights in public facilities in many cities and the replacement of traditional traffic lights with long-lasting light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and low-power traffic lights in Foster City, San Carlos, and Millbrae.
- Alternative transportation schemes have been developed such as bicycle lanes, shuttle services, housing and commercial developments near public transit, incentives for city employees to use public transit, and requirements that developers of commercial properties implement traffic reduction plans.

Housing

- Inclusionary housing policies have been adopted in 16 jurisdictions, with affordability requirements ranging from 10 percent to the 20 percent required in Colma, East Palo Alto, Foster City, South San Francisco, and unincorporated San Mateo County.
- Transit-oriented development projects near Caltrain and BART stations in San Bruno, the City of San Mateo, Redwood City, Menlo Park, Burlingame, South San Francisco, San Carlos, and unincorporated San Mateo County are either being planned, in construction, or completed.

Housing, continued

- Habitat for Humanity projects have been completed in Daly City, Redwood City, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park. There is also a current project in Brisbane.
- A number of cities have policies encouraging higher-density housing and mixed-use development in their downtowns or along transit corridors.
- Awareness of green building is growing and many cities encourage different green building strategies. A number of green building projects have been developed, such as the Shorebreeze Envirohomes in East Palo Alto and San Mateo County's new Youth Services Center.

Water

- San Mateo County and cities such as Foster City and South San Francisco are attempting to reduce water use in parks through the use of computer-managed irrigation equipment.
- Foster City, San Carlos, South San Francisco, and the Community College District have installed synthetic turfs or alternative grasses such as tall fescue in selected parks and sports fields. These reduce water usage and require lower maintenance. Synthetic turfs also eliminate the need for pesticides and fertilizers.
- A number of cities provide rebates to qualified residents to install water-saving toilets and washers.
- Daly City is using surplus water from wet years to recharge its aquifer. Other North County cities and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission are exploring greater coordination in aquifer management.
- Pacifica's Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant generates up to three million gallons of tertiary recycled wastewater each day. Other cities use recycled water for landscaped city properties or deliver it to customers with large watering needs, such as golf courses.

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Think globally, act locally.

David Brower, founder, Friends of the Earth
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Indicators 1998 Summary

Situated in the northwest corner of the United States where Microsoft has given birth to hundreds of millionaires and old growth forests are just an hour away, Seattle has the reputation of a prosperous city that is “clean and green.” Despite its image, Seattle struggles with the same questions many communities around the globe do: How do we balance concerns for social equity, ecological integrity, and economic vitality? How do we create a livable community today while ensuring a healthy and fulfilling legacy for our children’s children?

It was questions like these that spurred the creation of Sustainable Seattle—a volunteer citizen’s network committed to improving our region’s long-term health. Sustainable Seattle brought together community members from all facets of city life to define and research Indicators of Sustainable Community to measure our region’s real progress. Now six years later, following awards from the Puget Sound Regional Council and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, Sustainable Seattle is publishing its third report on indicators.

The 1998 edition of *Indicators of Sustainable Community* provides a timely review of sustainability trends for the Seattle/King County region. Selected and researched by over 250 citizens, there are 40 economic, environmental, and social indicators that together paint vivid picture of Seattle’s vision toward sustainability.

This year’s report shows both progress and problems. Of the 40 key long-term trends surveyed, there are 11 indicators moving Seattle toward sustainability—three more indicators than in the 1995 report. Eight indicators are moving Seattle away from sustainability, while 11 indicators are neutral. Still, 10 indicators do not have sufficient data to reveal a trend (an indicator in itself).

In total, 12 indicators have shifted in a positive direction since the 1995 edition. Strong conservation programs, summer

surcharges, and efficient system operations have reduced total water consumption 12% since 1990. Wild salmon runs in the Cedar River watershed are showing signs of stabilizing, but at dangerously low levels. Though still high relative to other ethnic groups, the proportion of African American and Native American youth involved in the juvenile justice system has decreased. And 46% of Seattle’s youth volunteered in the community last year, putting the region’s youngsters 14 percentage points above the national average.

At the same time, five indicators have changed in a negative direction since 1995. Fuel consumption and vehicle miles traveled per capita continue to increase, reflecting our dependence on the automobile. Though we are better at recycling, we continue to generate increasing amounts of solid waste. While the diversity of our teaching staffs in public schools matches the diversity of our adult population, it has not kept pace with student population. At the same time, workers are facing growing pressures to work longer hours and earn more, meaning less time for family and friends.

The 1998 report examines the same 40 indicators as the 1995 report, with a few exceptions. Due to difficulties in measuring current wetland delineation and defining biodiversity, the Wetlands and Biodiversity indicators were combined into one Ecological Health indicator. Sustainable Seattle will continue to search for ways to measure these important facets of sustainability. New to the 1998 report, the Energy Use per Dollar of Income indicator compares the total energy consumed in King County with total personal income and monitors energy consumption relative to economic change.

Nearly half of the indicator data sources or trend analyses are improved since the 1995 edition. Amended indicators include Ecological Health, Pedestrian- and Bicycle-Friendly Streets, Open

Space, Local Farm Production, Impervious Surfaces, Distribution of Personal Income, Housing Affordability, Emergency Room Use, Community Reinvestment, High School Graduation, Volunteer Involvement in Schools, Youth Involved in Community Service, Equity in Justice, Public Participation in the Arts, and Gardening Activity. Another enhancement to the 1998 report is the inclusion of success stories profiling model programs in Seattle’s efforts to become a more sustainable community. Endnotes have also been incorporated with each indicator to make reference information more readily accessible.

While our methods for measuring progress are better, our application of the indicators as a tool for social change still needs to improve. The *Indicators of Sustainable Seattle* are intended to be used by citizens and policymakers to guide behavior changes that will steer our community on a more sustainable course. The Indicators are a call to action—to spur critical thinking, to inspire us to reconsider our priorities, and to leverage actions that will ensure our community’s long-term health. It is time we do much more as individual citizens, business people, and policy makers to create a truly Sustainable Seattle. Achieving this goal is the most important legacy we can leave for future generations.

Indicators of Sustainable Community 1998

SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

Declining Sustainability Trend

Solid Waste Generated and Recycled
Local Farm Production
Vehicle Miles Traveled and Fuel Consumption
Renewable and Nonrenewable Energy Use
Distribution of Personal Income
Health Care Expenditures
Work Required for Basic Needs
Children Living in Poverty

Improving Sustainability Trend

Air Quality
Water Consumption
Pollution Prevention
Energy Use per Dollar Income
Employment Concentration
Unemployment
Volunteer Involvement in Schools
Equity in Justice
Voter Participation
Public Participation in the Arts
Gardening

Neutral Sustainability Trend

Wild Salmon
Soil Erosion
Population
Emergency Room Use for Non-ER Purposes
Housing Affordability
Ethnic Diversity of Teachers
Juvenile Crime
Low Birthweight Infants
Asthma Hospitalizations for Children
Library and Community Center Use
Perceived Quality of Life

Insufficient Data

Ecological Health
Pedestrian- and Bicycle-Friendly Streets
Open Space
Impervious Surfaces
Community Reinvestment
High School Graduation
Adult Literacy
Arts Instruction
Youth Involvement in Community Service
Neighborhoodness